



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office  
Species Account  
YELLOW LARKSPUR  
*Delphinium luteum*



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered

Federal Register Notice 65:4156; January 26, 2000

[http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal\\_register/fr3506.pdf](http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr3506.pdf) (145 KB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS

This species was listed as rare by the California Department of Fish and Game. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

CRITICAL HABITAT: Designated in Federal Register Notice 68:12834; March 18, 2003.

[http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal\\_register/fr4079.pdf](http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr4079.pdf)

RECOVERY PLAN: None

5-YEAR REVIEW: None

DESCRIPTION



Yellow Larkspur  
Robert Potts  
© 2001 CA Academy of Sciences

Yellow or golden larkspur is a perennial herb in the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae). It grows from fibrous roots to 56 centimeters (22 inches) tall. The leaves are mostly basal, fleshy, and green at the time of flowering.

Flowers, which bloom from March to May, are cornucopia-shaped. Five conspicuous sepals are bright yellow, with the posterior sepal elongated into a spur.

Inconspicuous petals occur in two pairs. The upper petals are narrow and unlobed. Lower petals are

oblong to egg-shaped.

See Hickman (1993) in General Information about California Plants, below, for a detailed description of the species.

DISTRIBUTION

Yellow larkspur grows in rocky areas within coastal scrub plant community, including areas with active rockslides, near the town of Bodega Bay in Sonoma County. The historic range is Sonoma and Marin counties.



Yellow Larkspur  
Jo-Ann Ordano  
© 2005 CA Academy of Sciences

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Petaluma (484B) 3812226, Tomales (485B) 3812228, Sebastopol (502A)\* 3812247, Valley Ford (502C) 3812238, Bodega Head (503D) 3812331 (\* Believed extirpated).

## THREATS

Never widely distributed, historical populations of the species have been partially or entirely extirpated by rock quarrying activities, over-collecting, residential development and sheep grazing, resulting in the species now being even more narrowly distributed.

The two known remaining populations near Bodega, both on private land, total fewer than 50 plants. Because of its extreme range restriction and small population size, the plant is also vulnerable to extinction from random natural events, such as fire or insect outbreaks.

## REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### [General references about California plants](#)

[www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant\\_spp\\_accts/plant\\_references.htm](http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm)

Photo credits: Jo-Ann Ordano and Robert Potts, For larger images and permission information see CalPhotos <http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/>.

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605  
Sacramento, California 95825  
Phone (916) 414-6600  
FAX (916) 414-6713

Last updated December 11, 2009